

Claims

1. A method of coating a cell characterised in that the cell is placed in a solution of hydrocolloid and, after removing the cell from the hydrocolloid solution, is placed in a cross-linking solution, to thereby provide the cell with a thin coating of the hydrocolloid.
2. A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is an alginate.
3. A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the alginate is Na-alginate.
4. A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is LMP.
5. A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is selected among κ -carrageenan or ι -carrageenan.
6. A method as defined in any of Claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the hydrocolloid solution is in CAMMR.
7. A method as defined in any of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the cell is a Xenopus laevis egg and embryos.
8. A method as defined in any of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of Ca, Ba or K ions.
9. A method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of CaCl_2 or BaCl_2 or KCl .
10. A method as defined in Claim 9, wherein the cross-linking solution of CaCl_2 or BaCl_2 is at a concentration of from 0.25 to 1 wt. % and KCl solution is at a concentration of 0.5 %.
11. A method as defined in any of Claims 1 to 10, wherein said thin layer is up about 50 μm in thickness.
12. A method of postponing hatching of Xenopus laevis embryos comprising applying a thin coating of an hydrocolloid to a Xenopus laevis egg and cross-linking said hydrocolloid.
13. A method as defined in any of Claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 12 wherein the alginate has a high M content.
14. A method as defined in Claim 13 wherein the M content of the alginate is from about 29 to about 61 %.
15. A cell having a thin coating of a hydrocolloid according to any of Claims 1 to 14.